

# DAU Welcomes New Commandant

## Wynne Passes DAU Colors to Army Col. Ronald Flom

SYLWIA GASIOREK-NELSON

In a Change of Command ceremony held April 12 at Fort Belvoir, Va., Army Col. Ronald Flom assumed duties as Commandant of the Defense Acquisition University. Flom succeeds Army Col. (P) James Moran who served as DAU's Commandant from April 1, 2001, to April 12, 2002.

Flom comes to the University from Defense Contract Agency East, Boston, Mass., where he served as the Commander from September 1999 to April 2002.

Farewell to DAU Commandant Guest speaker Michael Wynne, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, began his remarks by acknowledging Moran's spectacular job in leading the University over the past 12 months.

"What Colonel Moran has led here at DAU over the past year is nothing less than the most comprehensive re-engineering of DoD acquisition training since DSMC was established in 1971," he said. "This change is critical to Secretary Aldridge's goal of revitalizing the quality and morale of the DoD AT&L workforce.

"DAU is the one institution," he continued, "that touches nearly every member of the workforce throughout all stages of their professional careers. This is where we revitalize our workforce



Michael Wynne (left), Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, passes the DAU colors to Army Col. Ronald Flom, who becomes DAU's new Commandant.

while ensuring it has the training it needs to make smart business decisions and deliver for our warfighters."

Wynne spoke in detail on two new courses added to DAU's curricula under Moran's leadership: PMT-401, Program Manager's Course, and PMT-352, Program Management Office Course. He said that over the past year, the University underwent a complete transformation in its curriculum, methods of delivering training, and in reorganizing its training sites. In just the past month alone, he noted, DAU stood up the two new courses—PMT 401 and PMT 352.

### PMT-401

The Program Manager's Course (PMT-401), Wynne said, targets senior Level III-certified acquisition leaders with extensive acquisition experience. He noted that it departs from the traditional classroom and lecture setting and instead challenges and fully engages students through an intensive 10-week in-residence course built along relevant themes and real-world acquisition case studies.

### PMT-352

Concurrently, Wynne added, DAU's Program Management Office Course (PMT-352), designed to provide Level III

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**—Army Col. (P) James Moran  
Former DAU Commandant**



From left: Army Col. (P) James Moran, outgoing Commandant; Donna Richbourg, Director, Acquisition Initiatives, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Wynne; Flom; and Frank J. Anderson Jr., DAU President.

certification for defense acquisition, introduces not only an overhaul of course content, but a complete rethinking on how that course material is delivered to the students. Combining both distance learning and in-residence training, Wynne said that this hybrid course takes advantage of the latest e-learning practices while ensuring material that lends itself best to presentation in a classroom stays in the classroom.

“It is through these two classes and others like them, which stood up under Colonel Moran’s leadership, that DAU is transforming its curriculum,” said Wynne.

He went on to note that one of Moran’s significant contributions in the execution of the DAU transformation plan is the collocation of DAU’s training sites, which he called Moran’s “greatest legacy”

as Commandant. On Wednesday, April 10, 2002, he noted, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new DAU Mid-Atlantic Region campus at Patuxent River, Md. In March, he added, a similar ceremony was conducted in Huntsville, Ala., for the DAU South Region campus; and under construction now is another site in San Diego, Calif.

Borrowing a phrase from Col. Moran, Wynne said that DAU, with its new regional scheme, is now “in the foxhole with its customers,” and is now very close to the Services’ major systems commands.

“It [regionalization] will pay great dividends for both the University and its customers,” said Wynne. “It will also minimize the time our employees will have to spend traveling to training sites, time spent away from their families, and time spent away from their local workforce; and at the same time, DAU faculty will be close enough to the program offices to provide performance support while maintaining their currency,” he emphasized.

Remarking on the transformation during Moran’s tenure, Wynne said that changes of that magnitude are significant and not easy to bring about.

“As [Niccolo] Machiavelli stated, ‘There is nothing more difficult to manage, more dubious to accomplish, nor more

# DAU CHANGE

## APRIL 12, 2002,

Michael W. Wynne, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), passes the DAU colors to Army Col. Ronald Flom. Flom became the new Commandant of the Defense Acquisition University during a Change of Command ceremony at the Defense Acquisition University on April 12, 2002, at Fort Belvoir, Va.



Navy Senior Chief Boatswain James T. Pratt (right), DAU Senior Enlisted Advisor, presents the DAU colors to Army Col. (P) James Moran for the last time as Moran prepares to relinquish his command to Flom.



Moran (left) relinquishes his position as DAU Commandant, by symbolically passing the DAU colors to Wynne. Flom (right) stands by to receive the colors. Pratt stands at attention in the background.



Pratt (right) prepares to post the DAU colors after receiving them from the new Commandant for the first time.



Distinguished visitors, from left: Retired Navy Rear Adm. Leonard Vincent, former DSMC Commandant; Claude Bolton, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and former DSMC Commandant; and Donna Richbourg, Director, Acquisition Initiatives, OSD.



# OF COMMAND

## FORT BELVOIR, VA

Minutes before the ceremony, Army Spc. Normita Davisson adjusts Moran's portable microphone.



From left: Family friend, Mike Cassar; Jennifer Flom, daughter; Christine Flom, daughter; Flom; and wife, Kim.



Moran and wife, Patricia.



Flom's wife, Kim, escorted by Navy Cmdr. Scott Holden, departs the ceremony.

Patricia Moran (right) receives best wishes from Donna Richbourg, Director, Acquisition Initiatives, OSD.



Moran and wife, Patricia, receive best wishes from distinguished guest Claude Bolton, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and former DSMC Commandant.





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**—Army Col. Ronald Flom**  
**DAU Commandant**

doubtful of success than to initiate a new order of things,” Wynne said.

“It's been Colonel Moran's energy, commitment, and leadership that have been instrumental in bringing about this tremendous transformation in acquisition training,” he added.

#### An Exciting Time to be at DAU

“We have selected another strong leader who, together with DAU President Frank Anderson Jr., will provide con-

tinued energy and direction to the University,” Wynne told the audience.

“It is truly an exiting time to be at DAU; you have a critical mission to perform, you have great leadership, and a tremendous opportunity to positively impact the acquisition workforce. To both Colonel Moran and Colonel Flom, I wish you both the best of luck with your new assignments,” he said.

Concluding his remarks, Wynne presented Moran with the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his superb leadership and direction as DAU's Commandant and Dean of the Defense Systems Management College-School of Program Managers.

#### It Takes a Team

In his last address as DAU Commandant, Moran told those assembled, “It takes a team effort—and we have a *great* team at DAU.”

Moran also stated that no organization has undertaken, in such a short period of time, the amount of transformation that has happened at DAU with the standing up of the new campuses, curriculum redesign, changing of the leadership, and both *how* and *what* DAU teach.

“We have changed *how* we teach, *what* we teach, *where* we're located, and *who's* in charge,” said Moran. Smiling, he added, “Other than that we haven't changed anything.”

Moran also noted that being able to achieve such transformation in only 12 months is certainly a testament to the dedication and professionalism of the members of the DAU workforce.

“I think I've been honored and blessed to be here. I know the challenge is hard and we certainly have moved quickly. I want to thank all of you for all the hard work you have done and for being team players about it,” Moran said.

Expressing gratitude to Anderson, Moran said, “I've been blessed and honored to have been your teammate. I

think the two of us —together—have made a *great* team.”

He also thanked Wynne and Donna Richbourg, Director, Acquisition Initiatives, Office of the Secretary of Defense, for allowing the University “to make all the changes needed to be done in the time frame that we've done it.”

#### From the New Commandant

Acknowledging that he was honored by his selection as DAU Commandant, Flom told those attending the ceremony that he is pleased to carry on with the course that Moran set for the future of the organization.

“These are changing times in the transformation of DoD, the transformation of acquisition, and the transformation of DAU—and I'm happy to be part of that,” Flom said.

Underscoring the importance of training, Flom said that he's been a product of defense acquisition training for the past 20 years or so, and that over the years he has been associated with many DAU customers. In fact, he acknowledged, the job that he just left involved association or interaction with about 6,000 defense acquisition professionals spread out among 31 commands and 650 sites in the eastern half of the United States.

“I understand what the challenges are in training the 140,000-member Defense acquisition workforce,” he said.

Noting that DAU is not only an academic institution, but also a business, Flom said, “We deliver products to our customers whether that product would be training, total learning solutions, research, curriculum development, or performance support.

“Colonel Moran has done an absolutely outstanding job—his are a large pair of shoes for me to fill. I'll do my best to continue the journey and to get us to the end of it,” he added.

Addressing the DAU family, Flom emphasized that DAU is a great place to



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**—Michael Wynne  
PDUSD(AT&L)**

work. “Keeping this a great place and making this a place that people want to come to, not only to work but to get educated, is a top goal of mine,” he said.

Recognizing his wife Kim and his two daughters, Jennifer and Christine, Flom expressed appreciation for all they had to put up with over the years when he

was off doing things for the Army and Department of Defense.

“I’m looking forward to the challenge,” Flom concluded. “I can’t think of a better place to be today—in this time of transformation in DoD—and I’m very happy and fortunate to be able to be a part of it.”

## **COL. RONALD C. FLOM, USA** *Commandant, Defense Acquisition University*

Colonel Ronald C. Flom became the Commandant, Defense Acquisition University, on April 12, 2002. Prior to assuming his current duties, Flom served as the Commander, Defense Contract Management Agency East, Boston, Mass., from September 1999 to April 2002; and as Commander, Defense Contract Management Command, Baltimore, Md.

Flom was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1974 upon graduation from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Contracting and Acquisition Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Master of Science degree in National Resources Strategy from the National Defense University. He is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Defense Acquisition University Senior Acquisition Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Defense Systems Management College.

Flom served in command and staff positions in combat service support units in Korea and at Fort Campbell, Ky. He was assigned to



the Program Manager, M1 Abrams Tank Systems as the Operations Officer, and later as Chief, Production Support Branch, Lima Army Tank Plant, Lima, Ohio. After attending the Program Management Course at the Defense Systems Management College, he was

assigned to U.S. Forces Korea as the Chief, Small Purchase Branch, and subsequently as Chief, Contracting Division, U.S. Army Korea Contracting Agency. Flom served two tours of duty with the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command as Majors Assignment Officer in the Quartermaster Branch, and then as Chief, Military Acquisition Management Branch. He is a Joint Specialty Officer (JSO) and has served three joint tours with the Defense Logistics Agency.

Flom’s awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster. He is also authorized to wear the Air Assault Badge.

He and his wife, the former Kim, Kil Sun of Mokpo, Korea, have two daughters.